COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO • DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

Air Quality Analysis Format Guidelines

Draft of August 18, 2000

The following is designed to provide guidance as to the content and format of extended initial studies for air quality impacts for projects within the County of San Diego. In order to minimize the number of iterations of the technical study for air quality impacts, Consultants are encouraged to follow the format as presented below. The intent is to provide the reader of the technical study with a logical progression of analysis, from background information on applicable regulations and significance thresholds, to the potential impacts from the project and proposed mitigation measures. However, as each case has its own issues and needs, the format/content of the analysis may be revised as appropriate to each case. Revisions in such cases should be discussed with the staff air quality specialist, Mr. Joe DeStefano, prior to submittal of the first draft technical study. Mr. DeStefano can be reached at (858) 694-3692 or by email at jdestepl@co.san-diego.ca.us.

Title Page

As a minimum, the title page should include the name of the project, date of the report, the DPLU reference numbers, the applicant's name and address, and the preparer's name and address. In addition, this page should have a signature block for the County-certified consultant overseeing the work performed. An example title page is attached, this should be used as a guide only. Please feel free to revise to fit your own corporate style.

Table of Contents; Lists of Tables; Figures; and Appendices

Body of Report

1. Introduction and Project Description

This section should provide a brief introduction to the report, including the objectives of the report, the background on the project, and a brief description of the proposed project. A figure (or figures) showing the project location, as well as the location of potentially impacted sensitive receptors (schools, hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers) within 1 mile of the project should be included. A 7.5-Minute Series, USGS map should be used as a basemap for this/these figure(s).

2. Regulatory Framework

The regulatory framework should include a discussion of the Federal, State, and Regional air quality regulations, plans, and policies applicable to the proposed project. This section should include a discussion of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards

(CAAQS), and provide a table (or tables) showing the currently adopted standards.

3. Environmental Setting

The environmental setting section of the document should address the whole of the setting, both meteorological conditions, and existing air quality.

A. Meteorological Setting
This section should include a discussion of predominant meteorological conditions in the project area, regional and microscale, including a brief discussion of predominant wind patterns, and precipitation levels.

B. Existing Air Quality
This section should provide background information on air quality status of the project area, including local air quality monitoring data, basin air quality designations for both the CAAQS and the NAAQS, and regional air quality trends.

4. Thresholds of Significance

Although the County of San Diego does not have any adopted Thresholds of Significance for CEQA Appendix G of the 2000 CEQA Guidelines contains guidance as to what would be considered significant under CEQA. For direct applicability within the County of San Diego, the questions have been revised to reflect regulations and plans in San Diego, as well as current air quality designations. The following should be used a basis for analysis:

A. Would the proposed project conflict or obstruct the implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

B. Would the proposed project result in emissions that would violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

C. Since San Diego County is presently in non-attainment for the Federal and/or State Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone (O_3) and Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns (PM_{10}), would the proposed project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM_{10} or exceed quantitative thresholds for O_3 precursors, oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)?

D. Would the proposed project expose sensitive receptors (schools, hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers) to substantial pollutant concentrations?

E. Would the proposed project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

5. Air Quality Assessment

The Air Quality Assessment section should include information on emission estimation techniques, modeling methodology and inputs used (if applicable), as well as impact analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed project in light of the thresholds of significance identified in Section 4 above. This should include both construction and operation of the proposed project.

Where appropriate, modeling methodology should follow current guidance provided by the EPA for the ISCST3, SCREEN, and AERMOD models and guidance from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the Transportation and Land Use Programs Computer Model (URBEMIS7G). In addition, screening and impact assessment methodologies for microscale carbon monoxide impacts from project-related traffic should follow the current guidance from the Transportation Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol (Protocol) prepared by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and the University of California Davis Institute of Transportation Studies. This guidance document provides excellent guidance on the use of CALINE4 within California, and appropriate screening methods. The CalTrans Protocol is available on the CalTrans Environmental Section website.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

This recommendations for mitigation (a summary of mitigation measures if discussed elsewhere in the document); as well as brief summary conclusion.

7. References

A simple reference list following a standard reference style.

8. Appendices

The appendices should include all spreadsheets used in emission calculations, all modeling inputs and results, as well as any specific guidance provided to the consultant for methodology (either from the APCD or DPLU Staff). In addition, the appendicies should include a floppy disk, CD, or Zip™ Disk containing the electronic files of the calculation spreadsheets, modeling input/output files, and the meteorological data used in the analysis.

JOE DEVELOPER MAJOR SUBDIVISION
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
(GPA ##-###; REZ ##-###; ER ##-##-###)

AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS

AUGUST 2000

Prepared for:

Applicant Name
Applicant Address
Applicant City. State, Zip

Submitted to:

County Of San Diego
Department Of Planning And Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
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